

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims replaces the listings of the claims in the present patent application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**1. (Original)** A method for adding a telephone participant to a multi-participant video conference, comprising:

- sending a first message to each of a plurality of multicast appliances over the Internet, wherein the first message comprises a group address which identifies participants;

- each of the multicast appliances receiving the first message;

- establishing a plurality of virtual private networks across the Internet between the multicast appliances;

- wherein one or more of the participants are able to communicate in the multi-participant video conference;

- the telephone participant joining the multi-participant video conference, wherein said joining comprises:

- a first participant contacting the telephone participant

- establishing a phone number with a VoIP server;

- the VoIP server communicating with a gateway to call the telephone participant;

- the telephone participant participating in the multi-participant video conference.

**2. (Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone participant participating

in the multi-participant video conference comprises:

- the telephone participant speaking in the video conference;

- generating digital voice data in response to the telephone participant

- speaking; transforming the digital voice data into IP packets;

transmitting the IP packets containing the digital voice data to the first participant;

at a computer system of the first participant, decoding the IP packets containing the digital voice data to produce the digital voice data;

mixing the digital voice data of the telephone participant with digital voice data of the first participant;

providing the mixed digital voice data of the telephone participant and the first participant to the other participants.

**3. (Original)** The method of claim 2, further comprising:

mixing the digital voice data of the first participant and the digital voice data of the other participants;

providing the mixed digital voice data of the first participant and the other participants to the telephone participant

**4. (Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone participant participating in the multi-participant video conference comprises:

the telephone participant speaking in the video conference;

generating digital voice data in response to the telephone participant speaking;

transforming the digital voice data into IP packets;

configuring the IP packet with a group address according to a multicast protocol to create a multicast IP packet;

encapsulating the multicast IP packet as a unicast packet;

transmitting the unicast packet over the virtual private networks across the Internet between one or more appliances;

one or more of the appliances determining the multicast data from the unicast packet; and

the appliances providing the multicast data to each of the other participants in the group address.

**5. (Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

one or more of the participants communicating in the multi-participant video conference, comprising:

configuring IP packets with digital media data and a group address according to a multicast protocol to create a multicast IP packet; and

encapsulating the multicast IP packet as a unicast packet and sending the unicast packet to each of the other participants in the group address.

**6. (Original)** The method of claim 5,

wherein said encapsulating comprises encrypting the multicast IP packet.

**7. (Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

one or more of the participants communicating in the multi-participant video conference, comprising:

generating digital media data;

transforming the digital media data into IP packets;

configuring the IP packet with a group address according to a multicast protocol to create a multicast IP packet;

encapsulating the multicast IP packet as a unicast packet;

transmitting the unicast packet over the virtual private networks across the Internet between one or more appliances;

one or more of the appliances determining the multicast data from the unicast packet;

the appliances providing the multicast data to each of the other participants in the group address;

presenting the digital media data to the other participants in the video conference.

**8. (Original)** The method of claim 7,

wherein said encapsulating comprises encrypting the multicast IP packet.

**9-10. Cancelled.**

**11. (Original)** A method for adding a first telephone participant to a multi-participant video conference, comprising:

- sending a first message to each of a plurality of multicast appliances over the Internet, wherein the first message comprises a group address which identifies the participants;

- each of the multicast appliances receiving the first message;

- establishing a plurality of virtual private networks across the Internet routes between the multicast appliances;

- one or more of the participants communicating in the multi-participant video conference; and

- one or more telephone participants joining the multi-participant video conference.